



## State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER Executive Director

Utah Geological Survey
RICHARD C. ALLIS
State Geologist/Division Director

November 20, 2007

Sheri Murray Ellis SWCA Environmental Consultants, Inc. 257 East 200 South, Suite 200 Salt Lake City UT 84111

RE: Paleontological File Search and Recommendations for the Vineyard Connector Project, UDOT Project No. S-R399(35), Utah County, Utah U.C.A. 63-73-19 compliance; literature search for paleontological specimens or sites

## Dear Sheri:

I have conducted a paleontological file search for the Vineyard Connector Project in response to your letter of November 19, 2007. This project qualifies for treatment under the UDOT/UGS executed Memorandum of Understanding.

There are no paleontological localities recorded in our files within this project right-of-way. Quaternary and Recent alluvial deposits that are exposed over most of this project area have a low potential for yielding significant fossil localities. However, there is the potential for the discovery of significant vertebrate fossil localities in the Lake Bonneville deposits that may be exposed in along parts of this project right-of way. So please be aware of possible impacts to paleontological resources in this project area if these deposits are disturbed as a result of construction activities. Unless fossils are discovered as a result of construction activities, this project should have no impact on paleontological resources.

If you have any questions, please call me at (801) 537-3311.

Sincerely.

Martha Hayden

Paleontological Assistant

DNR DNR

Mr. Curtis Cesspooch, Chair Ute Indian Tribe P.O. Box 190 Fort Duchesne, UT 84026

Re: Request for Agency Comments
Vineyard Connector Project, Northern Utah County

Dear Mr. Cesspooch:

On behalf of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), HDR Engineering, Inc., is requesting comments from your agency regarding the proposed Vineyard Connector transportation project in northern Utah County, Utah. UDOT is sponsoring a study that will evaluate potential north-south transportation solutions east of Utah Lake and west of I-15 from about Center Street in Orem to the I-15 interchange at American Fork Main Street. The final study area will be refined during the public/agency scoping process. The project area includes portions of the cities of American Fork, Lindon, Vineyard, and Orem. The enclosed map shows the project location.

The Vineyard Connector is proposed as an arterial roadway on a new alignment. UDOT has secured state funding for the project and is in the beginning stages of completing an Environmental Study that will focus on potential environmental impacts associated with the new road. Because the project is proposed to be constructed without the use of federal transportation funds, the Federal Highway Administration is not directly involved in the state-level Environmental Study.

The purpose of this letter is to request information from your agency on the resource(s) under your jurisdiction in the study area that could be affected by the project, identify the issues that should be analyzed in the Environmental Study, and determine if project construction would require any permits or approvals from your agency. UDOT will use information from your agency, other agencies, and the public to develop project alternatives within the study area shown on the enclosed map.

We request written comments no later than Friday, February 29, 2008. Please mail comments to:

Sue Lee HDR Engineering 3995 South 700 East, Suite 100 Salt Lake City, UT 84107

Comments can also be sent by electronic mail to <u>vineyard@ppbh.com</u>. Please note the project in the subject line of either written or electronic correspondence.

UDOT will sponsor a public open house for the Vineyard Connector on February 13, 2008 at the Timpanogos Special Service District offices located at 5050 West 6400 North, American Fork, Utah. Basic information about the Vineyard Connector is also available on the project Web Site at www.udot.utah.gov/vineyard/index.php.

If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to contact me at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

Sue Lee Vineyard Connector Environmental Study Manager HDR Engineering, Inc.

Mr. Blaine Edmo, Chair Shoshoni-Bannock Tribes P.O. Box 306 Fort Hall, ID 83203

Re: Request for Agency Comments
Vineyard Connector Project, Northern Utah County

Dear Mr. Edmo:

On behalf of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), HDR Engineering, Inc., is requesting comments from your agency regarding the proposed Vineyard Connector transportation project in northern Utah County, Utah. UDOT is sponsoring a study that will evaluate potential north-south transportation solutions east of Utah Lake and west of I-15 from about Center Street in Orem to the I-15 interchange at American Fork Main Street. The final study area will be refined during the public/agency scoping process. The project area includes portions of the cities of American Fork, Lindon, Vineyard, and Orem. The enclosed map shows the project location.

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Sincerely,

Sue Lee Vineyard Connector Environmental Study Manager HDR Engineering, Inc.

Mr. Chet Mille, Superintendent Uintah and Ouray Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs P.O. Box 130 Fort Duchesne, UT 84026

Re: Request for Agency Comments
Vineyard Connector Project, Northern Utah County

Dear Mr. Mille:

On behalf of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), HDR Engineering, Inc., is requesting comments from your agency regarding the proposed Vineyard Connector transportation project in northern Utah County, Utah. UDOT is sponsoring a study that will evaluate potential north-south transportation solutions east of Utah Lake and west of I-15 from about Center Street in Orem to the I-15 interchange at American Fork Main Street. The final study area will be refined during the public/agency scoping process. The project area includes portions of the cities of American Fork, Lindon, Vineyard, and Orem. The enclosed map shows the project location.

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Sincerely,

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Mr. Steve Tibbetts, Superintendent Eastern Nevada Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs 1555 Shoshone Circle Elko, NV 89801

Re: Request for Agency Comments
Vineyard Connector Project, Northern Utah County

Dear Mr. Tibbetts:

On behalf of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), HDR Engineering, Inc., is requesting comments from your agency regarding the proposed Vineyard Connector transportation project in northern Utah County, Utah. UDOT is sponsoring a study that will evaluate potential north-south transportation solutions east of Utah Lake and west of I-15 from about Center Street in Orem to the I-15 interchange at American Fork Main Street. The final study area will be refined during the public/agency scoping process. The project area includes portions of the cities of American Fork, Lindon, Vineyard, and Orem. The enclosed map shows the project location.

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Sincerely,

Sue Lee Vineyard Connector Environmental Study Manager HDR Engineering, Inc.

Mr. Kenneth Timbana, Environmental Protection Specialist Northwestern Band of the Shoshoni Nation 427 North Main Street, Suite 101 Pocatello, ID 83204

Re: Request for Agency Comments
Vineyard Connector Project, Northern Utah County

Dear Mr Timbana:

On behalf of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), HDR Engineering, Inc., is requesting comments from your agency regarding the proposed Vineyard Connector transportation project in northern Utah County, Utah. UDOT is sponsoring a study that will evaluate potential north-south transportation solutions east of Utah Lake and west of I-15 from about Center Street in Orem to the I-15 interchange at American Fork Main Street. The final study area will be refined during the public/agency scoping process. The project area includes portions of the cities of American Fork, Lindon, Vineyard, and Orem. The enclosed map shows the project location.

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Sincerely,

Sue Lee Vineyard Connector Environmental Study Manager HDR Engineering, Inc.

Mr. Ivan Wongon, Chair Northwestern Band of the Shoshoni Nation 707 North Main Street Brigham City, UT 84302

Re: Request for Agency Comments
Vineyard Connector Project, Northern Utah County

Dear Mr. Wongon:

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Mr. Blaine Edmo, Chair Shoshoni-Bannock Tribes P.O. Box 306 Fort Hall, ID 83203

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Sincerely,

Sue Lee Vineyard Connector Environmental Study Manager HDR Engineering, Inc.



## Northwestern Band of The Shoshone Nation

**Tribal Environmental Protection Office**427 North Main, Suite 101
Pocatello, Idaho 83204

Phone (208) 478-5712 Fax (208) 478-5713

February 26, 2008

Sue Lee HDR Engineering 3995 South 700 East, Suite 100 Salt Lake City, UT 84107

Re: Vineyard Connector Project, Northern Utah County

Dear Sue Lee:

On behalf of the Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation (NWBSN) and Tribal Environmental Protection Office, I am providing the following comments on your proposed transportation project Vineyard Connector Project, Northern Utah County:

- 1. The main concerns of the NWBSN are: cultural, historic, and archaeological protected under the Indian Graves & Repatriation Act.
- 2. If cultural artifacts or Native American Indian remains are unearthed during your excavation work, notification of proper authorities should be followed, and notifying the NWBSN's Cultural Resource Protection Specialist at:

Patty Timbimboo, Cultural Resource Protection Specialist 707 N. Main Street Brigham City, UT 84302 Phone: (435)734-2286

Fax: (435)723-6320

Our environmental concerns with this proposed road project's impact on resources in the NWBSN's treaty area would not be significantly impacted. Currently, there are no significant environmental issues or natural resources under the Tribes area that are impacted by your proposed road projects or the alternatives that would be reviewed and or considered. The area in question is in an area already disturbed and there is no significant concern for the NWBSN's environmental concerns.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Timbana

**Environmental Protection Specialist** 

Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation